

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 01119 141803Z

41

ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00

SY-04 USSS-00 SSO-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OC-05 CCO-00 IO-10 CU-02

/097 W

----- 025310

R 141755Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5844

INFO FAA BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, EAIR, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BAZOOKA ATTACK AT ORLY AIRPORT

REF: PARIS 960 (NOTAL)

1. GEN. WALTER, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF SECURITY MATTERS AT GOF SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION (SGAC), SAID THAT PRACTICALLY ALL INFO THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO PRESS (ESSENTIALLY THROUGH AFP) RE YESTERDAY'S BAZOOKA ATTACK HAD BEEN CLEARED BY SGAC. WALTER WAS AT ORLY MOST OF TODAY PARTICIPATING IN INVESTIGATION.

2. WALTER WAS RELUCTANT AT THIS STAGE OF INVESTIGATION TO STATE UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT EL AL AIRCRAFT WAS TARGET. HE SAID THAT "OFFICIAL VERSION" IS THAT YUGOSLAV AIRCRAFT

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PAGE 02 PARIS 01119 141803Z

WAS PROBABLY THE TARGET (THOUGH THIS IS AT VARIANCE

WITH LATEST PRESS STORIES REPORTED SEPTEL). WALTER SAID THAT WHILE FOREGOING WAS FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION HIS PERSONAL BELIEF WAS THAT EL AL AIRCRAFT WAS INDEED THE TARGET. WHEN WE NOTED THAT FRENCH POLICE WERE DIRECTING THEIR INVESTIGATION TOWARD ARAB STUDENTS IN LATIN QUARTER WHICH SUGGESTED BELIEF THAT PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE ATTACK, WALTER WOULD NOT CONFIRM THAT INVESTIGATION WAS TAKING THAT TURN; HE COMMENTED ONLY THAT POLICE HAD TO FOLLOW UP ON WHATEVER LEADS THEY MIGHT HAVE, HOWEVER SLIM.

3. WALTER CONFIRMED THAT BAZOOKA LAUNCHERS AND PISTOL FOUND AT SCENE WERE BOTH OF SOVIET MANUFACTURE. HE SAID THAT BAZOOKA WAS NOT A VERY COMPLICATED MECHANISM AND WAS LITTLE MORE THAN A SIMPLE TUBE. FACT THAT IT WAS NOT A MORE SOPHISTICATED DEVICE WAS PROBABLY WHY BOTH SHELLS FIRED MISSED THE EL AL 707, HE SAID. SHELLS WERE ARMOR-PIERCING, WHICH EXPLAINED WHY ONE TRAVELED THROUGH YUGOSLAV DC-9 CABIN WITHOUT EXPLODING.

4. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT ONLY TWO PERSONS HAD BEEN SLIGHTLY WOUNDED IN THE ATTACK.

5. WALTER SAID THAT GOF HAS INTENSIFIED SECURITY MEASURES AT BOTH ORLY AND CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORTS (AND, WE PRESUME, ALSO AT LE BOURGET). POLICE PROTECTION HAS BEEN INCREASED AND PATROLLING HAS BEEN STEPPED UP. HOWEVER, HE SAID, THERE WAS ONLY SO MUCH THAT GOF COULD DO IN THIS FASHION WITHOUT RESTRICTING CIVIL LIBERTIES AND ABILITY OF PUBLIC TO CIRCULATE AT THE AIRPORTS. THIS WAS PROBLEM THAT WAS NOT CONFINED TO FRANCE, HE SAID, AND ONE THAT WE DOUBTLESS ALSO ENCOUNTERED IN US. AS A RESULT, HE CONCLUDED, GOF HAD TAKEN WHAT ADDITIONAL MEASURES IT CONSIDERED SITUATION CALLED FOR AND "IF THERE ARE OTHER ATTACKS WE WILL THEN TAKE EVEN MORE PRECAUTIONS".

6. COMMENT: APROPOS OF LATTER REMARK BY GEN. WALTER, WE MUST CONFESS THAT TIGHTENING OF GOF SECURITY AT AIRPORTS IN THE PAST YEAR HAS BEEN A QUESTION OF A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 01119 141803Z

LITTLE BIT MORE AT A TIME, IN EACH INSTANCE PROMPTED BY HIJACKING OR TERRORIST ATTACK BEGINNING WITH JAL HIJACKING. GOF SECURITY HAS BEEN FAIRLY TIGHT IN OUR OPINION (AND IN THAT OF VISITING FAA SPECIALISTS), AND THIS LATEST ATTACK, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING BOLD MANNER IN WHICH IT WAS CARRIED OUT AND WITH IMPUNITY, HAS DOUBTLESS COME AS SHOCK TO GOF AUTHORITIES. EXCEPT FOR SOME MILD CRITICISM IN RADIO NEWSCASTS THIS MORNING,

THERE HAS BEEN NO FAULT-FINDING IN PRESS OVER  
POSSIBLE INADEQUACY OF SECURITY FORCE AT ORLY OR MANNER  
IN WHICH FORCE MAY HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED. LE FIGARO NOTES  
THAT THIS KIND OF QUESTIONING OF SECURITY MEASURES  
IS INEVITABLE BUT CITES PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY OF  
SCREENING ALL AREAS OF AIRPORT GROUNDS OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC. WE MUST CONFESS THAT LATTER PROBLEM IS ONE  
THAT IS CERTAINLY NOT PECULIAR TO PARIS AIRPORTS.

RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 JAN 1975  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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